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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /074 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT AS RECIEVED FROM WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY ARA:FJDEVINE
S/S-0:JETHYDEN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR, PDIP

SUBJECT: GOA NOTES HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS

REF: B.A. 04638

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1. THE PRESIDENT HAS NOTED RECENT ARGENTINE ACTIONS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE, INCLUDING THE RELEASE OF PERSONS FROM CUSTODY, THE PROCESSING OF CASES IN THE COURTS, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE RIGHT OF OPTION MAY BE REINSTATED.

2. WHILE THESE ACTIONS WERE ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE SECRETARY AT GRENADA AND BY OUR DIRECTOR AT THE WORLD BANK, WE BELIEVE THAT A FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO MAKE THE ARGENTINES AWARE OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN THESE AND CONTINUING STEPS TOWARD THE RESTORATION OF THE RULE OF
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LAW. IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT THESE 342 PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND THAT THE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ARE REAL RATHER THAN COSMETIC, THEN THE PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE THIS TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESS HIS GRATIFICATION.

3. YOU ARE REQUESTED, THEREFORE, TO APPROACH THE GOA AT

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AN APPROPRIATELY SENIOR LEVEL AND NOTE THE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS IN RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GOA STEPS AND INQUIRE WHETHER FURTHER INFORMATION COULD BE PROVIDED CONCERNING THESE STEPS. FOR EXAMPLE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS NAMED IN THE LIST OF 342 PERSONS RELEASED FROM EXECUTIVE CUSTODY HAVE BEEN ACTUALLY FREED. FOR PERSPECTIVE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW HOW MANY INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED DURING THE SAME PERIOD. ARE THE NAMES OF THOSE PROCESSED BY FEDERAL AND MILITARY COURTS (I.E., THE 1,000 CASES) AVAILABLE? WHAT ARE THE CHARGES AND SENTENCES? HOW SOON CAN WE EXPECT A DECISION ON THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE RIGHT OF OPTION?

4. WE LEAVE IT TO YOUR DISCRETION HOW FAR TO GO IN ELICITING INFORMATION. HOWEVER, WE DO WANT THE GOA TO KNOW THAT THE PRESIDENT IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE MEASURES THEY HAVE ANNOUNCED AND WOULD APPRECIATE A MUCH CLEARER INDICATION OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. VANCE

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